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Ave, Cor Mariae!

January 18, 1972

Dear Fr. Alonso,

May your new year be heavily laden with every grace from Heaven.

The Fr. Provincial of the Claretian Portuguese Province has written a letter to Fr. Aloysius asking either complete incorporation of our group into the Portuguese Province or to be on our own as a separate entity. Fr. Aloysius sent Joseph Langford and Charles Carpenter, as his representatives, to interview the Fr. Provincial in Lisbon. Joseph and Charles were very prudent with the Fr. Provincial in their discussion with him, avoiding saying anything against the Province and about the liberal ways that are already creeping into the seminaries all over Fátima. Fr. Provincial stated again what he had written in his letter--that he would like us to be incorporated into the Province, or to have our separate entity.

Our group of ten for Perpetual Adoration do not feel like joining the Portuguese. The Americans do not find in the Portuguese seminarians the ideals the Americans have for which they came to Fatima. The Americans are quite disappointed with the mediocrity and liberal ways of the present seminaries all over Fatima. The American group feels more than ever like going all the way in the holy and high ideals we have. We are highly considered, because of the mercy of God, by all the people in Fátima unanimously, though we do not deserve it. And the two Bishops of Leiria count on us on the 13th of each month to help as altar boys and to carry the Blessed Mother and to be on the side of the Bishop while the Bishop is blessing the sick with the monstrance.

Father, ~~we ten~~, since Fr. Aloysius is still sick, he is asking us to write this letter to you. Fr. Provincial wants an answer as soon as possible. But first, Fr. Aloysius wants to speak with you. When you come back from Madrid, let us know, because we must see you as soon as possible. Fr. Aloysius is somewhat afraid that when the Fr. Provincial receives the answer that the American group wishes to be on their own and not join the Portuguese Province, Fr. Provincial might react strongly against us, and then go to the Bishop of Leiria and prevail on him to dissolve us and force us to leave Portugal. Fr. Aloysius counts on you, Fr. Alonso, to speak as soon as you can, to the Bishop of Leiria about our precarious and difficult situation, and to defend us and secure our staying in Fatima. In this manner, if and when Fr. Provincial goes to the Bishop about our decision, the Bishop will already know what to do.

Now, we have something more to tell you, Father. We are expecting, at the beginning of next month, a millionaire from San Diego, California, and we are going to ask him to pay, not only for our house in Fátima, but also for Pontevedra, so that all your plans in Pontevedra be realized fully, through the help of this millionaire. So, do prepare your plans for Pontevedra, because we Americans are going to back you completely, financially and otherwise.

We count on your fervent prayers. We are praying for you and we love you immensely. You might be the instrument to help bring a new congregation into its being in the Church, in the present day and age, through us Americans.

Best regards from Fr. Aloysius and from everyone of our ten Americans.
Dear Father, after God we count on you.

In Corde Matris,

William R. Bessey
William R. Bessey

Michael Korzeniewski
Michael Korzeniewski

James Swope
James Swope

Charles Carpenter
Charles Carpenter

Joseph M. Langford
Joseph Michael Langford

Robert Wilson
Robert Wilson

Joseph Goetz
Joseph Goetz

William F. Macaluso
William Francis Macaluso

Dennis G. Kelly
Dennis G. Kelly

Charles A. Plunkett
Charles A. Plunkett

Fr. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.
Fr. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.